

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 3, 2013**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2013 with Jeff Hubbard, David Neill, Jennifer Scuteri, Scott Maddern present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Interim DPW Director Dave Hanlon also present.

**Call to order**

Vice Chair Jeff Hubbard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Town Manager's report**

Town Manager Michael Lombardo provided an update on progress of new playground construction at Patton Park. Inclement weather has delayed completion that is expected in mid-June. Town officials agreed that a celebration would be held once the project is finished in late summer or fall. Lombardo offered his congratulations to graduating seniors from HW Regional High School.

He also updated the Board about consideration of farming a plot of land at the Patton homestead for HW Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Gordon College horticultural program and HW Community Gardens for youth program (i.e., Boy Scouts could earn a merit badge). Green Meadows farm would plow the field and a percentage of the proceeds would go to the Acord Food Pantry.

Lombardo also addressed his participation in HWRSD teacher contract negotiations according to statute for regional school systems. He participates in the contract sessions as a de facto member of the School Committee.

He noted that tentative agreement has been reached with the Hamilton police union regarding its contract and the draft agreement is being finalized for presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting. In addition, he is working

with Fire union to resolve that contract negotiation in short order and this will be discussed with Board in near future.

Lombardo mentioned that he would be attending a meeting in Boston regarding the Town's home rule petition that would give Hamilton the ability to place water liens on non-resident water customers. He explained that currently the Town has no ability to collect on unpaid water bills from non-resident customers and some customers have not paid for several years. Town Meeting has authorized the Town to pursue this special act.

He also spoke to the possibility of Hamilton receiving a large quantity of free soil that could be used as part of the Chebacco Road landfill capping project. This free soil could cut the Town's costs for the project by as much as \$500,000 or more.

Lombardo provided an update on DPW merger consideration citing that Technology Innovation Grant is ongoing and an analysis is underway of constructs to allow for all or some merger of public works department with Wenham or conceivably another municipality. He said in six weeks there should be a preliminary draft report to be shared with Board followed by a presentation.

In addition, he has met with Superintendent of Schools Michael Harvey and Mark Andrews, interim town administrator for Wenham, regarding the interlocal agreements that expire on June 30, 2013. Lombardo is working towards getting new agreements in place that would outline the working relationship for buildings and grounds. The revised drafts will be considered by the Board in the near future.

Hubbard suggested before Town gets involved in resources such as gardening at the Patton property, the Selectmen should put a charge in place for Patton property committee similar to what was done for the Patton Park pool committee. Especially in consideration that the Town has received permission from the state to close the Patton well. Lombardo said the Town just needs water turned on at the site for watering plantings for one season. Town officials agreed that discussion of Patton property committee charge could be an agenda discussion item for a future Board meeting.

Discussion ensued about home rule petition and water bills that are in arrears. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena explained that one Wenham resident owes the Town \$2,000 in unpaid water bills. Many Wenham residents recently

paid bills once Town Meeting vote on matter was approaching and an Essex resident is in arrears with the water bill. Before collections the Town was owed \$6,000 in water bills in arrears and after collections the Town is still owed \$4,000. Lombardo mentioned that Hamilton residents who are paying their water bills are supporting water infrastructure.

In response to an inquiry from Hubbard, Lombardo said nominal resources have been used to negotiate union contracts and/or interlocal agreements. In addition, Hubbard suggested that internal resources be used to analyze merger of public works as a parallel track to analysis being done through Technology Innovation Grant. Lombardo suggested that such an effort would be redundant.

Hubbard also recommended the Board do a downtown walk with Selectmen, Hamilton Development Corporation, Lombardo, DPW, HW Garden Club and HW Merchants. This will be added as an agenda item for future Board consideration.

#### **Chairman/Selectmen reports**

Scott Maddern described how he spoke to Council on Aging about Pirie working group, and noted that the League of Women Voters would be addressing the action undertaken by the working group as would the HW School Committee at upcoming meetings. Selectmen acknowledged the excellent job done for Memorial Day celebration. Jennifer Scuteri updated Board about how new historic district signs are in the works to be funded by CPA. She also described plans for tour at Patton property with representatives from Council on Aging, veterans and historic society coordinated with homestead caretaker. Also mentioned was Boy Scouts interest in the property to maintain the trails as a potential Eagle Scout project. She and Maddern both updated Selectmen on recent High School graduation events. Hubbard mentioned recent event held by ECTA, noted that HW Merchants Association had welcome baskets for new residents and have partnered with ECTA to produce trail map.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Hubbard read the items on the consent agenda.

Board signatures Commonwealth of Massachusetts **Warrant for Special Election June 25, 2013** for US Senator.

**One Day Liquor Licenses:**

**Gourmet Delights Catering, Inc.** for an event at the Community House on June 14, 2013; for event at the Community House on June 22, 2013; for an event at Pingree School on June 29, 2013 and for an event at the Community House on June 29, 2013.

**Green Meadows Farm** for an event June 3, 2013; for the Strawberry Festival June 15, 2013; for a Farm to Table event June 22, 2013; for a Farm to Table event July 18, 2013; for a Farm to Table event August 22, 2013; for an event August 31, 2013; for a Farm to Table event September 21, 2013.

**Permission to hang banner: Mass Audubon Ipswich River Summer Day Camp** from the poles dedicated for the purpose at the Senior Center from June 4 to June 17, 2013.

**Accept Donations for Patton Park Playground**

**Brick Campaign: \$100** Emily H. Turner-Russo

**Minutes:** April 29, Regular Session and Executive Session; May 13, Regular Session.

Discussion ensued about June 3, 2012 date for Green Meadows Farm. Scuteri so moved for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda with this deletion. Neill seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. It was learned later in the meeting that this event date is June 6, 2013 and Hubbard signed paperwork.

**PRESENTATION**

Jan Dempsey, Director **Hamilton-Wenham Public Library** will deliver a state of library report to the Board

Dempsey reported that she provides information about the library to the HW Merchants Association. She thanked the Town officials for supporting the library staff and noted that she had met with the Wenham officials. In addition, she mentioned the excellent library building and supportive communities. Dempsey summarized how the HW Public Library staff salaries have been historically low, that there are no steps, and there is not a differential for library staff holding master's degrees, all making it difficult to keep staff members and resulting in costly use of staff time to rehire and retrain new employees.

Discussion ensued about the need for a joint Selectmen and Finance Committees meeting before budget process begins to address the staff salary issue at the library. Hamilton officials are waiting for Wenham officials to provide a date for a joint meeting.

Dempsey updated Board on refurbishment of Ayer family statute at library, noted the generosity of Friends of Library organization regarding the museum passes it provides, and described new online, universal class service provided as well as school visits by library staff to prepare students for summer reading.

## **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Emergency water fund transfer** – Dave Hanlon to discuss with Board and if necessary seek its approval

Interim DPW Director Dave Hanlon described how the Idlewood well #2 needs to be managed through cleaning and chemical treatment to address manganese and iron to restore its integrity and put it back online. This is an unbudgeted item and the Finance and Advisory Committee has approved the Reserve Fund transfer. The work will begin right away.

Hubbard entertained a motion to request the following to be transferred from the Reserve Fund in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5A & 6 in the amount of \$10,000 to be transferred to account line 65450520061. The present balance in the said appropriation is \$16,259.46. The amount requested will be used for emergency repair to the Idlewood well #2. This expenditure is extraordinary and unforeseen for the following reasons which Hanlon described. David Neill so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Hanlon and Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

## **Pirie Property – Update on CPA funding availability**

Scuteri described how the Community Preservation Committee was in favor of using \$500,000 of CPA funds towards the purchase and carrying costs of the Pirie Property if the voters at Special Town Meeting approve the Town purchasing the land by a two-thirds vote since the property would provide public benefit. She spoke to how other towns had used CPA funds in a similar manner. Discussion addressed how this consideration is only a portion of Hamilton's CPA funds and that CPA funds cannot be used for a turf field.

**Scheduling joint meeting with Wenham – brainstorm agenda items**

Discussion ensued about shared services and if there are opportunities to merge municipal departments from Hamilton and Wenham, that Recreation Director Sean Timmons should attend joint meeting, that library staffing and unfunded state mandates should be agenda items. Hubbard noted that the Patton Park Pool Committee was ready to make a presentation and Superintendent of Schools Michael Harvey was interested in speaking to turf field.

Lombardo suggested that a list of agenda items from the Board should be provided to Wenham for input on meeting discussion. Hubbard suggested the list be prioritized. Lombardo said dates for the joint meeting would be coordinated through his Maureen Hickey and then sent to Wenham.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consideration of topics for discussion at future Selectmen's meetings**

Discussion ensued about holding a meeting on Monday night prior to Tuesday's Special Town Meeting to address clarification of proposal to use \$500,000 of CPA funds for Pirie Property purchase, that Board should vote its recommendation on the STM warrant article as favorable or unfavorable, and to determine how the Board was going to participate in STM with more explanation about due diligence and specific wording to accommodate bond counsel.

Hubbard mentioned that this was the first he heard of using \$500,000 of CPA funds for the Pirie Property purchase. He suggested future topics for discussion at Board meetings should include: charge to Patton property committee, downtown walk through, scheduling closing of Patton well, and Selectmen's code of conduct. Neill concurred with decision about the future of the Patton property committee stating his belief that the responsibility for the property should be transferred and managed by the Town manager.

Hubbard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Scuteri so moved. Neill seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Clerk